

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

All but claims 8-10 of the present application have been rejected on grounds involving the prior art: claims 1-3, 11, 12, 14 and 16 have been rejected as being anticipated by Levesque (US patent number 3,142,787 or "the '787 patent") and claims 1-7 as being obvious over JP 3025361 ("the '361 publication) in view of the '787 patent. No other grounds have been advanced for rejecting the application.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by requiring that the spatial orientation of the spacers be related to the axis of the cavity: each spacer is radially aligned with respect to the axis of the cavity. The prior art of record, particularly the '787 patent, fails to disclose or teach radially aligned spacers. The apparatus of the '787 patent, as best illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, clearly shows that each spacer 40 and 42 are not radially aligned, and there is no apparent teaching or motivation in this reference to align the spacers in the manner as presently claimed by applicant. Because the '787 patent is necessary to support any of the rejections advanced by the Examiner, applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable over the prior art. Applicant's attorney of record may be reached at the telephone number below should any matter remain unresolved by this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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